**Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church**
Fifty-third and Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, Pa.
W. B. Greenway, D. D.
Minister

July 7, 1926

The Rev. John B. Laird, D.D.
4315 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Laird:

A colored reporter was just in to see me this morning. I referred him to you for any information in reference to Lincoln University.

I am writing now to call to your attention the name of some one who might be worthy of your consideration. I refer to the Rev. John Reeve, D.D., of the South Church, Syracuse, N.Y., was formerly of the Fourth Church, Philadelphia, and the First Church, Lancaster. I imagine you know him well. He was a classmate of mine. His is the only real conservative Church in Syracuse. His many friends are in and about Philadelphia. I believe he would be interested. I also believe he would make a capable president for Lincoln. I am just passing his name on to you as a suggestion.

I judge from what the colored reporter of the Associated Press said, the Alumni Association is going to demand Professor Wright. I hope the Board stands pat in electing a Minister.

With personal regards and all good wishes,

I am

Cordially yours,

W B Greenway

WBG:G

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The Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.
Delhi, New York

Dear Dr. Robinson:

Your splendid letter of July 2nd just received. I suppose by this time you may have heard from Dr. Laird my decision in reference to Lincoln University. I only wish I could have seen my way clear to have taken that work, but having made changes in the pastorate, you can understand how things begin to pile up on one when a change is suggested. The work appealed to me wonderfully and I should like to have undertaken it. However, viewing the work here in Philadelphia from all angles and with family considerations, I could not see my way clear to accept the presidency of Lincoln.

Confidentially, one of the down town Churches, with a valuable property and heavy endowment, has offered Bethany Temple their property and endowment if we would take them over, the only condition being the use of part of the present equipment for the time being for a foreign work. This will enlarge Bethany Temple's responsibility as well as her opportunity. As the offer came through me and since we are only in the very midst of consummating the arrangement, I feel I owe it to the two Churches to remain here.

However, one very strong factor was my family. My two boys have just graduated from high school, 19 and 20 years of age, and are entering business. We feel we owe it to them to make a home for them until they are anchored in their businesses. I am sure you will understand how we feel about this. These are the two principal reasons that lead to my decision.

Since making my decision, I have learned that the Alumni Association is active in their attempt to secure Professor Wright. I can say to you confidentially I believe they are going to interfere with any action of the Board of Trustees in electing a president unless Wright is elected. Men like yourself and Laird will know how to act under the circumstances. I think it would be disastrous to let the institution get into the hands of the Alumni Association. I think their interest in the institution should be conserved, but not at the expense of the institution.

I appreciate more than words can express the confidence placed in me by men like Laird, Kennedy and yourself. The fact is, I have always had a warm spot in my heart for you. You are the only Minister who ever wrote me a note of congratulation for anything I did in my own Church. When at Gaston, after receiving a large number of members, you wrote me a splendid note of congratulation. I believe

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these are the things that reveal a man's true heart and life. I have never forgotten it.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

W B Greenway

WBG:G

P.S. I am suggesting to Dr. Laird today the name of a man I believe to be fully competent to take Lincoln University and probably is available. I refer to the Rev. John Reeve, D.D., of the South Church, Syracuse. Reeve was a classmate of mine. He is thoroughly conservative in theology and I believe was a member of the old Board of Education. His children have all graduated from school and are now taking their place in the world. Reeve feels he is surrounded by modernists and would appreciate having a field of service in or near Philadelphia. He is a sane, tactful man, a western man by birth. I hope you stand by your decision to have a Minister at the head of Lincoln. With the theological school, I think it is the only wise thing to do.

W.B.G.